FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Truman Plan Is Union-Busting, Murray Charges

Washington, D.C.—Declaring that the CIO is strongly opposed to any legislation "looking toward compulsion of labor or robbing them of their constitutional right to strike," CIO Pres. Philip Murray told Congress that the purpose behind the Truman anti-strike bill (HR 4908) was to destroy labor.

Appearing at the House Labor Committee hearings on the Truman proposals for a 30-day "cooling-off" period and "fact-finding boards" on labor, Murray pointed out that neither of these provisions were necessary.

"It is 90 days since the Steelworkers formulated their wage demands, and they have still deferred the final resort to strike . . . for still another 30 days.

"In the automobile industry the workers thrashed about for over 60 days in futile efforts to induce General Motors to engage in real collective bargaining.

"No one can suggest that there has been action in haste or in heat. These workers have been cooled off until they have almost been frozen out of the picture."

Turning to the proposed "fact-finding boards," Murray pointed out that the facts of life on a present-day wage earner's income are already available and that no special and time consuming studies are needed to seek out the facts.

Asked what he would propose as a measure to quiet industrial unrest, Murray answered: "Repeal the abominable carry-back and carry-forward provision of the tax laws." He called it a "lockout benefit fund for industry," since they are guaranteed their 1936-39 profit level no matter how little they operate.

Fascism Can Come Here – Murray

CIO President Philip Murray sharply focussed attention on the difficult situation facing labor and the nation in announcing recently the coming CIO National Political Conference which will be held in Atlantic City, N. J., January 29-31.

Emphasizing the importance of the meeting, Murray warned: "It is not impossible for fascist ideas to conquer America even though Axis military might is crushed. Reaction, which was temporarily partially silenced by the war, is again becoming prevalent. . . .

"Likewise, those who seek to crush labor as the protagonist of democracy are determined to use unemployment as their tool and the financial reserves built at the taxpayers' expense as a weapon."

FTA LOCALS BLAST "COOLING-OFF"

RECOGNIZING Pres. Truman's anti-labor "cooling-off" proposal as one which could only serve to break the back of labor, FTA locals took immediate protest action.

Memphis, Tenn.

Political action is picking up in Memphis since Pres. Truman proposed legislation to further hamstring labor, according to Regional Director Frank Hargrove. Local 19's membership set its Political Action Committee into motion on this issue and as a result, wires and letters by the score were sent to Truman and Congress severely criticizing this anti-labor bill.

Charleston, S.C.

American Tobacco strikers in Local 15 took time out to pass a resolution condemning Pres. Truman's anti-labor proposals, and to adopt another strongly supporting CIO Pres. Murray's stand against Truman. Following up on this action, individual members sent letters to Truman, Congressmen and to Pres. Murray. Word was passed along to other organizations urging them to take similar action.

Philadelphia, Pa.

"We've cooled off long enough," the Strike Committee of Local 186 at American Tobacco wrote to President Truman, calling upon him to withdraw his anti-strike proposals to Congress. "We had a "cooling-off" period from the day we held our Union election in May, 1944, until the day we went out on strike against this Company on Oct. 15, 1945."

Chicago, Ill.

All officers, stewards and members of Local 194 are being mobilized to bombard Congress with protests against the Truman anti-labor legislation. Petitions were passed around in the plant protesting directly to President Truman on his proposal, and pledging the all-out fight of every signer against passage of this straitjacket legislation.

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Local 22 members, employed at the R. J. Reynolds (Camels) cigarette plant and several leaf houses, wired Rep. John Folger of North Carolina and House Majority and Minority leaders John W. McCormack and Joseph Martin expressing their opposition to the anti-labor bills now cropping up in Congress. "Our eight thousand members demand that this drive against the rights of labor and the people be stopped at once," the wire read. Letters were also sent to Senators Josiah Bailey and Clyde Hoey.

Houston, Texas

"Houston's compress and flour mill workers in Local 75, FTA CIO, are definitely against your labor-smashing proposals," said wires sent by the Local to Pres. Truman, Rep. Albert Thomas and Senators Lee O'Daniel and Tom Connally. The Local's action got a fine write-up in the Houston Post, a daily newspaper.

Camden, N.J.

Local 80, representing 6,000 workers at the Campbell's Soup and other food and cigar plants, wrote Pres. Truman and Senators and Congressmen from New Jersey that present anti-labor proposals aid no one but Big Business. "The outcome will mean low wages, starvation and misery for the workers and returning veterans." . . . "The members of our Union are disillusioned with the Administration's lack of concern for the welfare of the American people," the letter concluded. The Local also passed a resolution supporting the GM strike.

New York, N.Y.

Local 273, whose members are all employed in various cigar plants, received favorable answers from several of the Congressmen to whom they had written opposing the present anti-labor proposals up in Congress, and urging support for the 65c Minimum Bill.

The Northeast Regional Council took similar action.

Lancaster, Pa.

Local 638 members, employed at the Consolidated Cigar plant, wrote Pres. Truman, "We cannot believe that you are carrying out the policies of FDR when you call for such anti-labor action by Congress . . . We insist that you must not fail him and the people in the struggle for a better and prosperous nation."

Columbia, S.C.

The workers at the Swift and Co. cottonseed oil mill, deeply aroused by Pres. Truman's proposals, sent telegrams of protest to all the Congressmen and Senators of South Carolina and persuaded the NAACP, the Progressive Democrats, the interdenominational ministerial alliance, fraternal organizations, etc., to do likewise.

The Organizing Committee at the plant is conducting a drive to get all union members to pay their poll tax in order to vote in February.

Evansville, Ind.

A recent Organizing Committee meeting of Fendrich Cigar workers wrote Pres. Truman and Indiana Senators and Representatives condemning Truman's "blitz to shackle unions." Wires were also sent.

Richmond, Va.

The workers at the Southern Biscuit Co. and the Larus and Bros. Stemmery in Locals 57 and 45 protested Truman's anti-labor proposals in letters and wires to Congressmen, Senators and the President himself.

CIO Fights For Decent Housing Bill

Washington, D. C. — Support for the new housing bill, S 1592, as a sound step toward housing for low and middle income groups, was voiced at the Senate Banking and Currency Committee recently by CIO spokesmen.

"The CIO believes that an annual production of 1,750,000 dwelling units is the only realistic estimate (of needed construction) for a nation that wants and must have full employment and full production," said a statement prepared by UAW Pres. R. J. Thomas.

"Housing and community redevelopment are the largest single 'frontier' now available to American economic development," Robert K. Lamb, of the Steelworkers Union said. "With the impending provision for health and medical care (in other bills before Congress), housing can afford the greatest impetus to an economy of full production and full employment."

"The bill should make it possible for 10,000,000 families in the $1,000 to $3,000 brackets and who are now, for the most part, excluded from the home buying markets, to become purchasers," John Edelman of the Textile Workers Union testified.

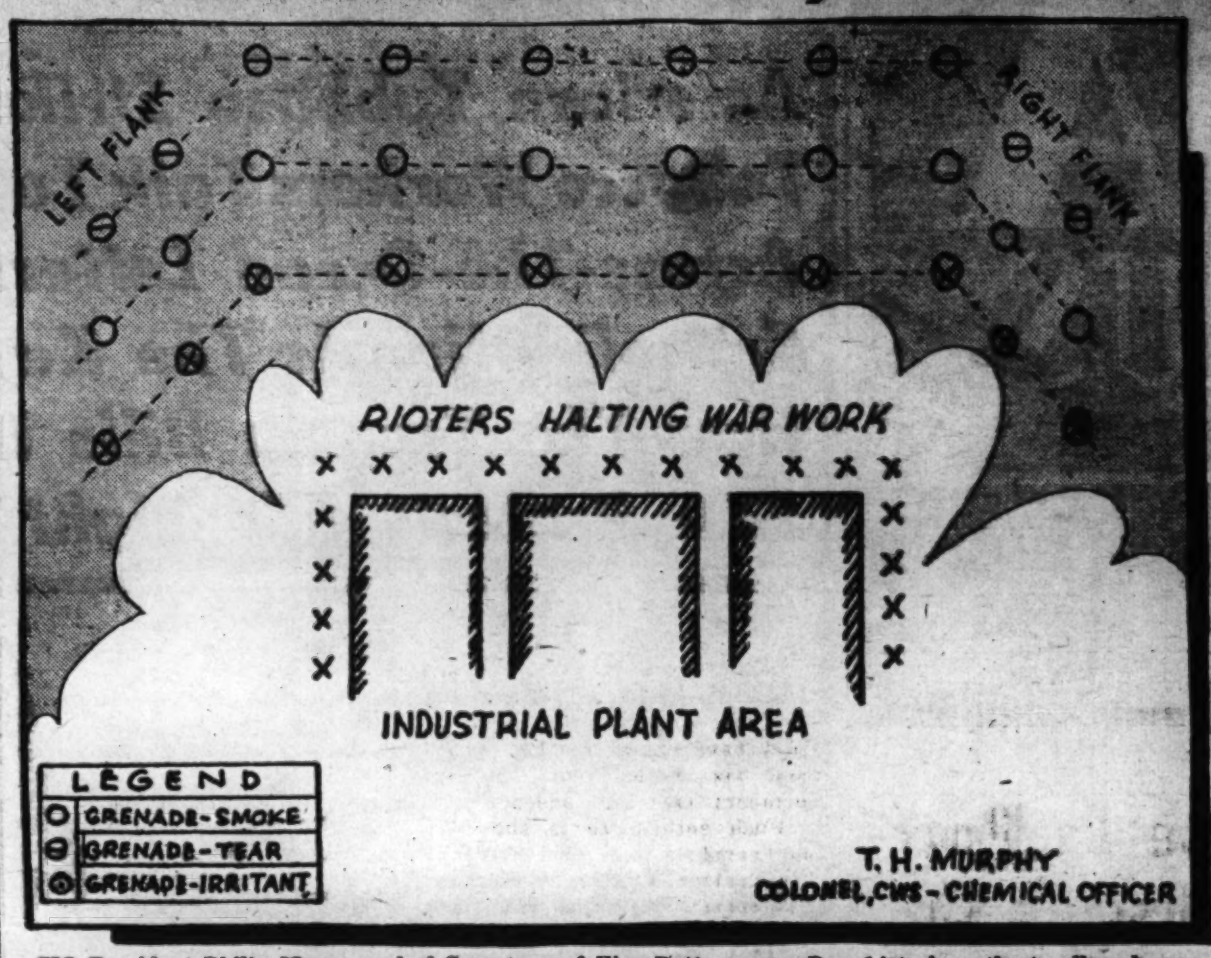
Labor Fact Book, A 'Must' For Unionists

By Federated Press

Unionists who know that one well-aimed fact can knock a row of low-wage company arguments for a loop now have an inexhaustible supply of ammunition.

It's the new 208-page Labor Fact Book 7 (published by Labor Research Assn., 80 E. 11 St., New York 3, N. Y.), an indispensable record of all developments affecting labor during the last two years. Well-indexed and written in a brief, easy-to-read style, the book's thousands of facts are based on authoritative reports and documents.

An Anti-Labor Army Plot?



CIO President Philip Murray asked Secretary of War Patterson on Dec. 14 to investigate alleged preparations of some Army officers for intervention in strikes. The request was based on a plan (reproduced above) signed by Col. T. H. Murphy, Chemical Warfare Service, Camp Monmouth, N. J., which recommended that smoke, tear gas and irritant gas grenades be used against strikers. Murray told Patterson that this was only one of several such reported plans, that such activity violates U. S. Army regulations, and that "it would be a flagrant violation of the basic democratic rights of the American people. Information that the training of troops for action in strikes was still going on, Murray said, had come to him from discharged vets as recently as Dec. 10.

FROM WASHINGTON

Time To See Your Congressman

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Washington Representative

ONLY a few short months ago, President Truman issued a fine 21-point program, calling for Congressional action to speed reconversion and bring about full employment. But that program, which looked so fine on paper, was sabotaged by Truman himself and by Administration leaders in Congress.

Today a new Administration program is in the making. Highlights of this program are Truman's anti-strike bill to gag labor; the use of U. S. troops in China to support Chiang Kai Shek's side of a war against the Chinese people; and irresponsible (if not worse) policies with respect to the use of atomic energy and the atomic bomb.

While Roosevelt was president, we had to fight on many occasions to preserve labor's rights against a reactionary Congress and we did not always agree with the policies that came out of the White House, but we had the leadership of a President whom we could generally count on labor's side.

Truman Backtracks

This is no longer so. For example, President Roosevelt vetoed the Smith-Connally bill when it was passed by Congress; Truman proposed that Congress enact a bill far more dangerous than the Smith-Connally Act.

Or, take the case of the 65-75c minimum wage bill, which we are told the Administration is supporting. The other morning, Administration leaders in the Senate Education and Labor Committee back-tracked on their commitments to vote the bill.

The encouraging side of the story is that the people are aware of what is going on and we have already managed to put the brakes on. United labor opposition recently defeated an attempt to rush the vicious Arends amendments to the Smith-Connally Act through the House. The same united action forced both the House and Senate Labor Committees to turn down Truman's demand for an anti-strike bill before Christmas and to agree to hold enough hearings to get some real facts on this completely phony proposal.

Popular action has also forced Truman to backtrack to some extent in his statement of U. S. policy in China and has taken Secretary of State Byrnes to Moscow for serious discussions on atomic energy with the British and the Russians.

Xmas Visits

Beginning with Christmas week we will have a golden opportunity to bring home to members of Congress the sentiments of the people on these and many other issues. Most Congressmen are going home for a Christmas recess which will last until about January 14. Every member of the House of Representatives who goes back to his district is thinking about getting re-elected in November of 1946. Senators who come up for re-election in 1946 are in the same position.

Democrats are learning fast that they will not be supported by labor just because they belong to the party which used to be headed by Roosevelt. And Republicans are, in many cases, bidding for labor support.

We have got to tell them plainly that labor will support and vote for only those men who fight for the people on the important issues of the day. This has to be brought home particularly to those Democratic Congressmen whom we supported in 1944 and who must now oppose the President for the first time in the fight against the Truman anti-strike bill.

Your local should start right now planning a recess visit to your Congressman. Get his home address, phone, write or wire him for an appointment, and take a big committee. (Check the current Washington Newsletter and PAC Notes for detailed instructions and suggestions.)

Get His Record

The Action Box on this page lists the main issues to discuss with your Congressman. Clip this box, answer the questions and return it to the Washington Office, so that we will have a record showing where your Congressman stands on these issues While all the questions on the list are important, two of them are most urgent because they will come up immediately following the recess:

- The 65-75c minimum wage bill, with particular emphasis on extension of coverage because this aspect of the bill affects FTA members more than anyone else, and is in greatest danger of being compromised away.
- The Truman anti-strike bills which threaten the most fundamental rights of labor.

Tell It To Congress

NOW'S your chance to "tell it to Congress" in person. Your Congressmen are at home for the Christmas recess and will be home until about January 14. Make appointments to see them, get a big committee organized to visit them and get their commitments on the following issues.

Wages

a. Will you support labor's demands for substantial wage increases? _____

b. Will you support the 65-75c Minimum Wage Bill with extension of coverage to food processing workers? _____

Anti-Labor

a. Will you oppose the Norton-Ellender Anti-Strike Bill? _____

b. Senators—Will you oppose the Hobbs Anti-Picketing Bill recently passed by the House? _____

Housing

a. Will you support emergency housing for veterans? _____

b. Will you support the Wagner-Ellender-Taft low-cost housing and jobs bill? _____

FEPC

a. If you have not yet done so, will you sign the FEPC Discharge Petition No. 4? _____

b. Will you ask your party leadership to fight for passage of the FEPC bill? _____

Other Issues

a. Will you support the Douglas Resolution for Big Three Unity on control of atomic energy? _____

b. Will you sign Discharge Petition No. 11 for emergency unemployment compensation? _____

c. Will you sign Discharge Petition No. 12 for abolition of the un-American Activities (Dies-Rankin) Committee? _____

d. Will you support the new Wagner-Murray Health Bill? _____

e. Will you support continuance of price control? _____

Poll-tax (ask Senators only)

a. Will you vote for H.R. 7 to abolish the Poll-tax? _____

b. Will you vote for cloture to end filibuster? _____

c. Will you join Senate steering committee for H.R. 7? _____

d. Will you oppose substitution of constitutional amendment? _____

Human Side Neglected In Job Picture

New York, N. Y. — Women workers, Negroes, veterans and aged persons have been most heavily affected by the failure of industry to reconvert properly, Pres. Truman was informed in a report by the National Committee on the Human Aspects of Reconversion recently.

This survey, conducted by a social workers' group following V-J Day, studied reconversion of industry in 19 cities. The report found "confusion and tension throughout the nation, with anticipation of an increasingly grave situation a few months from now."

Conclusions of the survey were in sharp contrast to a recent optimistic report on reconversion issued by Truman.

Negroes, Vets Suffer

"Problems of the Negroes, veterans and aged workers were found to be the most acute of all," said Clarence King, professor at the New York School of Social Work and chairman of the committee. "These groups are already bogged down by unemployment, housing shortages and discrimination to the extent that their plight becomes a serious threat to whole localities."

They reported increasing problems of "interracial tensions" where unemployment and overcrowding are affecting Negro workers. "Apparent in the situation is the reappearance of discriminatory practices on the part of employers," the report said.

The committee proposed a 6-point program to avert widespread human suffering:

- Immediate action for federal responsibility for full employment;
- Extension of federal social security measures to include general relief and special relief for transients;
- Increased jobless benefits;
- Federalization of the U. S. Employment Service;
- A permanent national Fair Employment Practices Commission;
- Amendment of the Wage-Hour Act to increase minimum wages.

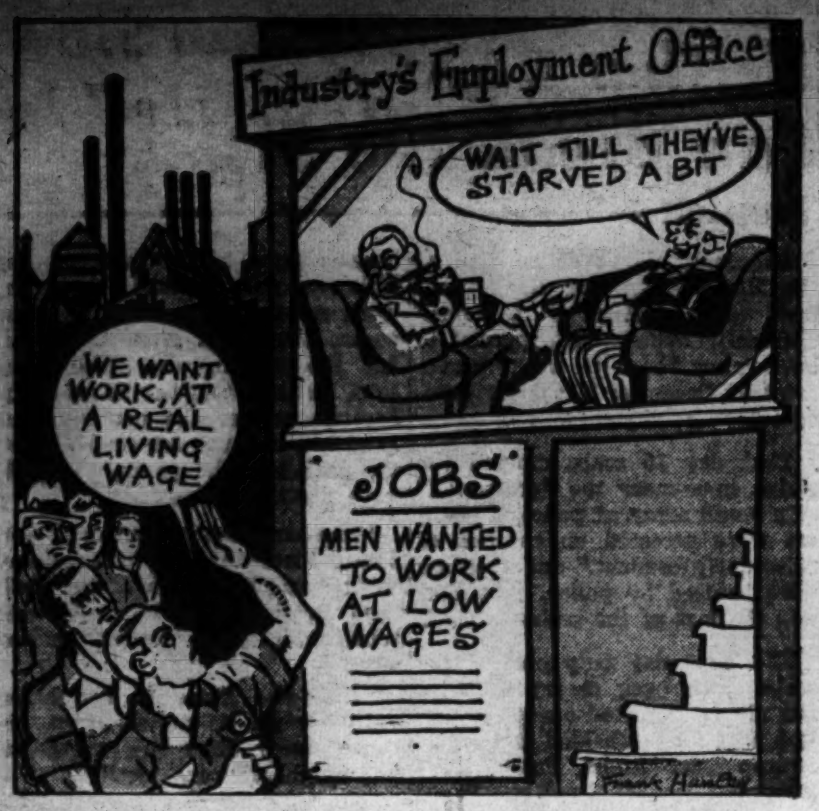
Hobbs Bill Ready To Go To Senate

Washington, D. C. — Emboldened by Pres. Truman's recent anti-strike proposals, the House of Representatives on Dec. 12 passed the Hobbs anti-labor bill (HR 2) by a voice vote.

The bill, which makes strikes, picketing and other legitimate union activities a crime, now goes to the Senate, where it was pigeon-holed two years ago.

President Truman and his friends have defended his "cooling-off" message on the ground that it would keep Congress from passing "something worse." The "something worse"—Hobbs Bill—has now been passed by the House, which also has a raft of other anti-labor bills in the hopper.

Wires and letters to Senators and Representatives must be sent in order to prevent further anti-labor action in Congress.


Industry's Employment Office
WAIT TILL THEY'VE STARVED A BIT
WE WANT WORK, AT A REAL LIVING WAGE
JOBS
MEN WANTED TO WORK AT LOW WAGES

Citrus Workers Fight Boss' Stalling Tactics

By Dave Forbes and Ralph Hargrove, CWOC Representatives

Lindsay, Calif.—FTA members of the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee are meeting the challenge of the employers here who have been stalling a Union contract for 20 months. We are concentrating on building up membership to the point where the employers will be forced to sign contracts.

In the 31 citrus packing houses where CWOC has bargaining rights, in Tulare County and the Riverside - Redlands areas, the shippers have refused to recognize the basic principles that are standard practice in contract negotiations. At the same time, the citrus lobby in Washington is putting pressure on Congress to pass anti-labor legislation.

CWOC's answer to the citrus bosses is building membership. Leaflets, meetings and social affairs have shown results. In the past six weeks, over 150 new members have been added.

Much enthusiasm is shown by our members over the results of the cannery elections in Northern California. They know that thousands of cannery workers added to FTA membership will give a big boost to the Unionization of the big open shop citrus industry.

Union Spark Plugs

Too much praise cannot be given to our hard working militant Shop Stewards and volunteer organizers, such as Brother Adam, Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Johnson. In Lindsay we have fine people like Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Albritton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Miller, Bro. Jolly and wife, and Sister Ethel Lee. Strathmore is proud of George Steer and wife, Sisters Georgia Ferguson, Josephine Kemp, Estrella Smith, Harvey Zikes and wife, and Pauline Olivas.

It's hard to pick the best in Porterville, but some of the hardest working Union people there are Alice and Gibb Boldt, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Carr, Susie and Johnnie Jackson, Sister Lucas, Josephine and Jim Horne, Leora Gibbs, Brothers McKenzie and Vaughn, Edna Newman, Pete Ferguson, Bob White, and the McCrary's.

In the Redlands-Riverside area, we point with pride to Bob and May Heath, Jim Walters, Mrs. Stinzel, Hazel Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Barricklow, Mrs. Dora Love and her daughters Marcia and Dorothy, Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez, Rose and Anna Vaca, Brothers Bill Bracken and Mills, Sisters Alma Haggard, Helen Hunt, Maxine Lasher, Florine Harshman and Genevieve Kern.

Win Wage Increases In Memphis Compress Plants

By Frank Hargrove, Regional Director

Memphis, Tenn.—Approximately $25,000 in back pay was received before Christmas by Local 19 in the various cotton compress plants here. The back pay was the result of increases won in the Union's new contracts with the compresses. Local 19 represents some 500 workers in 6 different compresses.

At the convention of the Tennessee State Industrial Union Council on Dec. 9, delegates adopted a resolution in support of the American Tobacco strike being conducted by FTA. Greetings and best wishes for victory were sent to the workers on strike.

The Convention also supported the UAW strike at GM, the Pepper-Hook 65c-75c Minimum Wage Bills and permanent FEPC. John Mack Dyson, President of Local 19 and FTA International Vice-President, was re-elected to the executive board of the Tennessee Council.

Greets Cannery Workers: Morris Zussman, newly-elected president of the California CIO Council (left) shakes hands with Mark Froelich, rank and file FTA cannery worker who was elected to the state CIO executive board at the recent California CIO Convention. FTA is now the second largest CIO union in California, as a result of its victory over the AFL Teamsters in 78 Northern California canneries employing 45,000 workers. Froelich is a worker at the Libby, McNeill and Libby plant in Sacramento, Calif.

Win Wage Rise In Pact At Southern Biscuit Co.

By Max Sussman, International Representative

Richmond, Va. — In their second contract with the Southern Biscuit Company, which was ratified by the membership on Dec. 13, Local 57 won the union shop and a 10c per hour wage increase retroactive to Dec. 1. The new raise brings the total increases up to 20c per hour in one year since the Union has been in the plant.

Other gains include pro-rated vacations of 40, 50, 60, 70 and 80 hours and payment of double time for vacations worked, as well as 6 holidays with pay. Some 335 workers are employed at Southern Biscuit.

The Local 57 Negotiating Committee was comprised of Max Sussman, Business Agent; Ernest B. Pugh, CIO Regional Director; Adele Ellis, Chief Steward; Thelma Douglas, Robert Lodge (just back from the Army), Jack Coffy and Charles Brent.

Our returned veterans are proud of the Union. They are with us 100% solid, and they are taking an active part in Union affairs.

Local 57 is supporting the American Tobacco strikers in Charleston through financial contributions. The Fur and Leather Workers Union, the Dyers Federation and the Richmond IUC have also made substantial contributions. Leaflets and post card distributions on the strike have been made in all local unions here.

Sharecroppers Tell Of Bad Conditions

By James M. Hawkins and Joseph Rogers, Local 63

Turrell, Ark.—Local 63 is small in numbers, but we stand 100% for every issue FTA-CIO is fighting for. The condition of the sharecropper in the South is more grave than we can explain.

Most of the planters, ginners and merchants practice peonage on the farms. We have no contracts and no voice on what to plant, how to plant it or what we will get for it. We are now getting $2.50 a day on the farm—no hours mentioned, just work.

Some of the planters never settle in full with the labor for the 1944 crop. Some farm hands still have bales of cotton unaccounted for in last year's crop.

Give Funds To Strikers

By Miriam Cliff, Reporter

Lancaster, Pa.—At our Christmas party here on Dec. 15, Local 638 celebrated the new contract with the Consolidated Cigar Corp. and contributed toward the American Tobacco strikers in Philadelphia and Trenton.

Present at the party as guests of Local 638 were members of the Philadelphia American Tobacco Strike Committee, who were given $90 raised by the Consolidated Cigar workers. Int. Rep. Jessica Rhine addressed the gathering, telling about the determined fight the strikers were waging against the Company for a 65c minimum and 25c per hour increase.

American Tobacco boycott posters were distributed, and post cards were signed and sent to the Company protesting the Company's conduct toward their employees.

Also present at the party were guests from Local 80, Consolidated Cigar in Camden, N. J.: Pauline Mickle, Chairlady, and Antoinette Sharp, Asst. Chairlady.

How They Can: These FTA cannery workers told the story of their struggle for organization in the form of a skit presented at the recent California CIO Convention. Above, Dorothy Montero, Rose Winkler, Peggy Emmick and Julia Green demonstrate the work of pitters, sorters, fillers and canners. The Convention resolved to continue and expand organizational and financial support to FTA in order to complete the task of 100% organization of California's food processing workers.

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LOCAL 56 STRIKERS IN TRENTON greeted Assemblyman Kenneth W. Odell and Freeholder Peter A. Pulone on their picket line recently. The Assemblyman addressed the strikers and told them their demands were justified and that the American Tobacco Company was sabotaging full employment by refusing to negotiate. Shown above with the strikers are Int. Vice-Pres. Armando Ramirez and Odell.

SWEET BUNS AND COFFEE is the usual snack at strike headquarters of Local 186 in Philadelphia. Above, left to right, Rose Shaw hands out refreshments to Willie Blankenship, Jess Rhine, Ida Jefferson and Millie Martin as they come in from picket duty. The strikers welcomed the happy change in their diet at their Christmas party on Dec. 22, which featured Santa Claus and gifts for the kiddies in the afternoon and a bang-up social affair for the strikers in the evening.

AT AMERICAN TOBACCO

Neither Cops Nor Scabs Can Break the Strike

Trenton

The scabs didn't do so well at the Henry Clay and Bock plant here (a subsidiary of American Tobacco). What was supposed to be a fancy "back to work" movement on December 10 merely turned out to be a plain fizzle.

That day 15 scabs crossed the picket line under the "protection" of a small army of police, 5 strikers were arrested on charges of "disorderly conduct," and 4 others were bruised by police. But that was the last of the scabs—almost.

The next day only one of the scabs came back to try to enter the plant. "One of our girls was in a phone booth behind this scab," reports Lucy Aiello, President of striking Local 56, "and she heard her call the manager (Mr. Moskowitz) and tell him that she was willing to go to work and that she was not afraid because she had police protection.

"When the girls saw the scab come around to the factory, they followed and mocked her. She went up on a porch of a house across the street from the plant, but the woman who lived there came out and told her to go away, because neither she nor her husband has any use for scabs. When the scab left the porch, the girls gave her the 'bum's rush.'

"The same scab's husband," continued Sister Aiello, "is a railroad worker and a member of the Railroad Brotherhood. When he was told of his wife's doings, he was wild.

"Now she keeps in her house with her shades pulled down, because every time she steps out her neighbors razz her."

At a strike meeting of Local 56, following the scab incidents, the strikers voted to suspend all scabs from the Union. "The scabs have not been around any more," reported the Local. "They seem to realize now that they're licked."

Philadelphia

The mayor of Philadelphia was called upon December 17 to investigate police provocations in the American Tobacco strike. A sharply worded telegram sent by FTA Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane protested the obvious attempts of the Philadelphia police to provoke disturbances around the picket line.

That morning, as the temperature hit zero degrees, the Local 186 picket line was greeted by an array of police squad cars and a station wagon.

The strikers had gotten word that a group of scabs had been rounded up by the Company foremen and that they were meeting together on a street corner several blocks away. The police who were crowding the street around the picket line were evidently sent to prepare the way for the scabs.

But a funny thing happened. Maybe it was the strong picket line that changed their minds, or maybe it was the freezing weather. When a delegation of strikers took a walk to see what had happened to the scabs, they found them—not on the street corner—but sitting in the police station on that block, in the friendly company of the police.

Neighbors who later called the police captain to find out why he was so hospitable to the scabs were told that they were only "keeping warm." The telephone at the police station was ringing all day, with neighbors and shop keepers around the plant calling to protest, and the scabs never showed their faces near the picket line.

Lane's telegram to Mayor Bernard Samuel pointed out that "the record of the strike shows absolute discipline and peaceful behavior of the strikers. Police should be serving the people of Philadelphia, not the interests of a corporation which refuses to act in an American way and bargain with their employees. We call upon you as head of our municipal government to put an end to police interference in the American Tobacco strike, and we demand an investigation into the source of the police provocations."

National Group Formed To Fight for 65c Wage

Washington, D. C. — The recent formation of the National Committee for a Fair Minimum Wage strengthened the fight for the Pepper-Hook 65c-75c Minimum Wage Bills. Educational, farm, social service, industrial, labor and religious organizations and individuals organized the Committee.

The Most Rev. Bernard J. Sheil, auxiliary bishop of Chicago, who is the founder and director of the national Catholic Youth organization, has been made chairman of the Committee.

In accepting the appointment, Bishop Sheil said, "The fight for a national minimum wage of 65 cents an hour is an attempt through legislation to give concrete expression to a basic element of economic social justice: the annual living wage."

Vice-chairman of the committee is Dr. Frank P. Graham of Chapel Hill, N. C., president of the University of North Carolina. Miss Elizabeth S. Magee, general secretary of the National Consumers' League, has been named secretary of the group.

Objectives of the newly formed group are to "mobilize public-spirited men and women throughout the country behind the Pepper-Hook bill amending the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938."

Local 22 Protests U. S. Troops in China

Winston-Salem, N. C. — Protest against the government's imperialist intervention in China was voiced in a telegram sent to President Truman recently by the Local 22 Stewards Council representing the workers at the Winston, Piedmont and Export Leaf houses.

"The tobacco leaf houses Shop Stewards Council, representing 1500 workers at its last meeting passed a resolution requesting that American troops be immediately withdrawn from China and that the U. S. Government cease all participation in the Chinese civil conflict," the telegram stated. "And further, that the U. S. Government use its influence to limit the imperialistic action of the British and Dutch against the struggle of the Indonesian people for their sovereign independence as guaranteed in the Atlantic Charter."

Don't Buy Lucky Strike

Can a Company Defy the U. S. for a year and get away with it? Strikers (above) at the Eppinger and Russell Company in Jacksonville, Fla., are determined to make the Company comply with a War Labor Board Directive issued Oct. 18, 1944, calling for union security, vacations and wage increases retroactive to Feb. 4, 1944. Local 4-A voted unanimously to strike the plant on Oct. 1, 1945, in protest against the Company's flagrant violation of collective bargaining procedure. The Union resorted to strike action after continued appeals to the War Labor Board to enforce its directive order failed to stop the Company's stalling. The strikers have the support of the Shipyard, Maritime and Office Workers unions in the city.

FTA Tobacco Workers Speak To Farmers

"LET'S all work toward prosperity" is the title of a letter to the farmers of North Carolina from Local 22 in Winston-Salem urging farm support tor the Pepper-Hook 65c-75c Minimum Wage Bills. Explaining the need for farm-labor unity on this issue, the letter says:

Dear Mr. Farmer:

Prosperity is like a train. It travels on two rails. One is good prices to farmers, the other is decent wages to workers. The one is no good without the other. The workers must have a high income to buy farm products. The farmers must have a high income to purchase manufactured goods.

The workers in the tobacco factories wouldn't have a job unless the farmers and workers all over the country had enough money to buy cigarettes. Neither could the tobacco farmer sell his crop at a profit. The same thing would hold true for other goods — cotton, wheat, cattle or any farm products. Farmers know they have good times only when the workers have decent wages and can afford to buy farm products.

During the 1939-1940 tobacco selling season, the average price on the Winston-Salem market was $14.96 per 100 pounds. At the same time, the average wage paid to all manufacturing workers in the country was 64 cents an hour.

High Wage Aids Farm

By 1944, the average wage had risen to $1.02 an hour. (It was much lower in Winston-Salem.) That's a 59 per cent increase. But the price of tobacco on the Winston-Salem market had risen to $42.93 per 100 pounds by the 1943-1944 selling season. That's an increase of 187 per cent.

Because the workers' wages increased, they were able to buy more tobacco products. This pushed the price of tobacco up. All of you remember when you were getting three and four cents a pound. In fact, the percentage increase in tobacco prices was three times as much as the percentage increase in wages.

And the same thing goes for other farm products. Everybody remembers when eggs were selling for 10c a dozen. The people of the nation were starving, but they couldn't buy eggs without a job or while working for 15c an hour.

Secretary Anderson of the United States Department of Agriculture said:

'If we can have a general rise in family income, we can be assured of expanding markets for good production."

Every farmer knows that Secretary Anderson is correct.

The workers of Winston-Salem need the help of the farmers of North Carolina in getting a bill through Congress which will help us all.

Senator Claude Pepper of Florida has introduced a bill in Congress to raise the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act to 65c an hour. The number of this bill is S 1349. The workers of Winston-Salem call on you to help push this bill. It would mean a wage increase for over half the workers of Winston-Salem and would automatically bring about a bigger market and higher prices for farm products. It would also mean more profits for small business men and retail merchants. They depend on the incomes of farmers and workers to keep them in business.

Pepper Bill

The passage of the Pepper Bill, raising the minimum wage to 65c, would not mean an increase in prices paid by farmers for manufactured goods. Government economists have shown that wages can be raised at least 24 per cent without any increase in prices. The manufacturers would still rake in twice as much profit as they did in the years 1936 to 1939.

This bill does not cover farm workers. But even if it did, the farmers who hire outside labor would be more than repaid by higher prices and a larger market. Besides, only one out of every five farmers in the United States hires labor.

One thing which is not in the Pepper Bill and which should be included is the payment of overtime to seasonal workers. The workers in tobacco redrying plants do not get overtime for fourteen weeks out of the year. Because of this, the tobacco companies try to rush the season through in fourteen weeks.

This is bad for the farmers. They have to trade and tie their tobacco in a hurry. If they had more time to do a better grading job, they would get better prices. Every farmer knows that he gets a price according to the worst tobacco in a pile, not according to the best or even the average tobacco. A longer season would also save the tobacco farmer labor cost and give him a better chance to take advantage of rises and slumps in prices.

Since before the end of the war, organized labor has been doing all it can to avoid unemployment and to raise the standard of living of all the people. We all know that unemployment would cause another depression. We all know that Henry Wallace was right when he said: "The standard of living must be raised 50 per cent to avoid another depression."

Certainly, none of us want another depression. The last one helped nobody except big business. The workers and farmers are tired of going hungry, going without decent clothes, doing without decent homes.

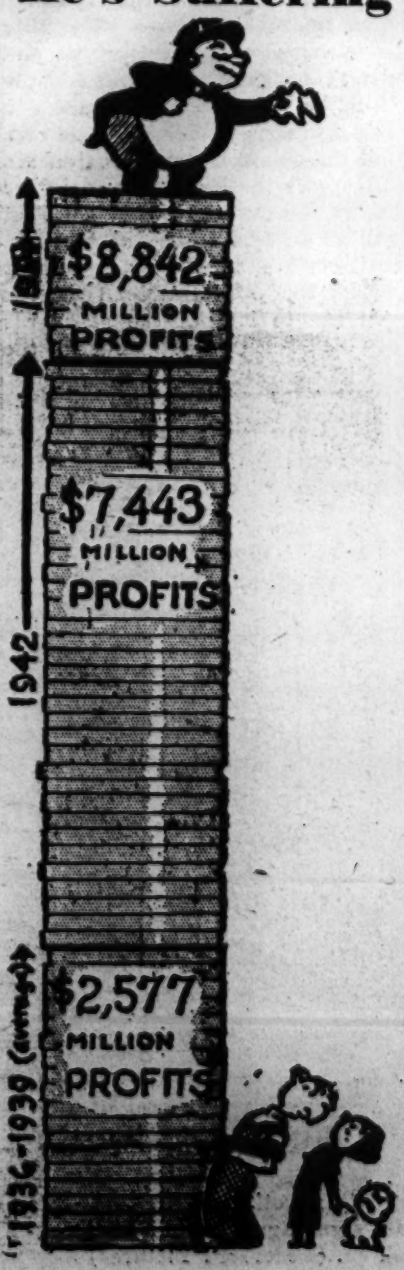
We elected our Congressmen. They are supposed to represent us. Those who want to represent us need to know what we are thinking. Those who don't want to represent us can be made to represent us if we raise our voices.

For your own good, and for the good of the workers, do what you can to get the 65c minimum wage bill passed by Congress with overtime pay for seasonal workers.

Write your Congressman and Senators today asking them to vote for and support the 65c minimum wage bill . . .

The workers of Winston-Salem are anxious to work with the farmers for our common good. Let's work together toward prosperity for all.

He's Suffering



The Farmer Looks At Wages And Profits

FARMER'S markets depend upon labor's purchasing power. When workers don't have money, they don't eat. That is why the outcome of labor's struggle with industry to prevent a 30% cut in average wage rates is of direct concern to the farmer, according to Facts for Farmers, a monthly newsletter, published by Farm Research. That is why the success of the UAW strike at General Motors and the other wage struggles now going on will do much to determine what kind of postwar economy the nation's farmers will have.

"The drop in employment and wages has already been having its effect upon farm income," Facts for Farmers points out. "In the last three months, receipts from farm marketings have been running 15% below last year at this time, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture is therefore estimating that net farm income for 1946 'may decline as much as 15% from 1945.'"

"Big business would have the public believe that it is poverty-stricken, and it loudly insists that higher profits are the first condition for full employment and full farm production. With profits at the highest peak in history, and due to go still higher next year, this argument is not likely to convince farmers and workers that their incomes should be cut."

$30,000 Back Pay Won At Farmers' Cooperative

Hightstown, N. J.—Local 95 is celebrating the recent award of back pay amounting to $30,000 for the employees of the Central Jersey Farmers' Cooperative here. Representing an average 20c hourly increase for the majority of the employees, the back pay was retroactive to July, 1944.

The wage increase had been approved in last year's contract with the Cooperative, but was turned down by the War Labor Board until such time as the national wage policy was changed. Meanwhile the money was held in escrow, and when Local 95 reopened wage negotiations after V-J Day, the back pay was awarded.

The new wage rates in the Farmers' Cooperative, a poultry feed mill, provide for a minimum of $1.05 per hour, except for probationary workers, who earn 10c less than regular workers in each classification.

Other provisions in Local 95's current contract include check-off of Union dues; union shop; 30-day probationary period; seniority provisions; grievance procedure and arbitration.

Overtime, Vacations

Time-and-a-half is paid after 8 hours worked in a day and for the 6th consecutive day of work; double time is paid for Sunday and holiday work and after 12 hours worked per day. Vacation pay is computed on the basis of average weekly earnings, including overtime and paid holidays. Employees with 6 months' service get 1 week vacations; those with the Cooperative for one year or more get 2 week vacations. In addition, there are 7 paid holidays.

The contract also provides for accumulated seniority for employees in the armed services and severance pay when an employee is inducted. Hospitalization, medical surgical and group insurance plans are paid in full by the Cooperative. The contract includes a no-discrimination clause and a no-strike, no-lockout clause.

The Union and the Cooperative are negotiating for a guaranteed annual wage plan.

Organizing Drive

Negotiations were carried on by Harry Shapiro, President of Local 95; Harry Malsbury, Vice-President; and Bertha Bogner and Joseph Skeba. They were assisted by Union attorney Saul Waldbaum.

The FTA Regional Council is currently taking a hand in organizing other cooperative feed mills and canneries in the area. All those interested in joining the Union, Local 95 has announced, should contact Harry Shapiro at the Central Jersey Farmers' cooperative in Hightsown.

ACROSS-THE-OCEAN LETTERS:

Two Scotsmen Get Aquainted

OVER the past few months a real friendship has sprung up between FTA and our British sister union, the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, through the exchange of letters between members of the two unions. The November 1 issue of FTA NEWS carried the first exchange of letters. Since that time, John Gallacher, Pres. of Local 194, has received a letter from a fellow Scotsman, which is printed here along with Gallacher's answer.

From Edward J. Milne, Vice-Chairman of the Ten Acres and Starchley Branch of NUDAW, Birmingham, England:

Dear Comrade:

I was very interested in your appeal for correspondents in the last issue of "New Dawn." Perhaps before we go any further I'd better introduce myself. I am vice-chairman of the Ten Acres and Starchley Branch of NUDAW, a branch with a membership of over 1,400 drawn from the employees of the Co-operative Society of that name.

I am also the Midlands Divisional Organizer of the National Council of Labour Colleges. This is the educational section of the British Trade Union movement, and some time later on I shall send you an article describing some of our activities, aims and objects.

It is very necessary now that we have a Labour Government in Britain for us to have very close connections with the American Trade Union movement and I shall attempt to keep in close touch with you in the future. If you have any of your members specially interested in the educational side, I should of course be specially interested to correspond with them. I might add that I am 29 years of age, and while this is considered young for a trade union official, there are a number of people of around the same age in the British Labour movement.

Should you wish any information on the British Labour and Trade Union movement, I shall be glad to let you have it. In any case I shall be writing from time to time on various matters to you and look forward to making many friendships with members of our brother union in America.

I might add that although working in Birmingham, I am a Scot. Aberdeen is my home town.

Will it be possible to send me a copy of your Union journal regularly? I do not know how paper supplies are, but a few members of our branch committee are interested and some copies would be appreciated very much.

Atomic energy to build rather than destroy, was the theme of a rally in New York where 20,000 people gathered to hear (reading l. to r.) Dr. Harold Urey, Sen. Charles W. Tobey and UAW Vice-Pres. Richard Frankensteen. Other speakers were Secy. of Commerce Henry Wallace, Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas, and the leading British scientist Julian Huxley. At an earlier meeting, Huxley urged the people of the U. S. and Britain to demand that the Soviet Union be included in conferences on the control of the bomb and the use of atomic energy. "Atomic energy," he said, "is too big to entrust to a single nation. It is too big for private enterprise."

Answered by John Gallacher, President, FTA Local 194, Chicago, Ill.:

Dear Sir and Brother:

I received your very interesting letter. It is indeed a pleasure to correspond with one who is so deeply involved in the fight for the rights of the common man. In order for us to know one another, and I think you have done a very neat job on yourself, allow me to introduce myself.

I migrated from the land of my birth, Scotland, to the land of my adoption, the United States of America, in 1930. I have never forgotten my mother country and I have never forgotten the many workers that I associated with when I was there in the coal mines in West Craigs, Scotland.

I worked in a coal mine there for a period of two years. During that time I was a member of the Mine Workers' Union. My father, who worked there too, was also a member of the Mine Workers' Union. My heritage has been one of hard work and suffering, and I know that at the present time, as President of FTA Local 194, that the experience has been a great help to me, because I know that in the organization of the workers of no matter what country, lies the promise of a better world.

For the last 14 years, I have been a worker in the Campbell Soup plant in Chicago in the Mechanical Department. This plant processes all kinds of soups which you probably have seen, and which were sent out to the Armed Forces and to the nations that were fighting with us against Nazism and Fascism. At the present time, there are over 3,000 workers in this plant. We are under union contract with the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers of America, Local 194, CIO.

It has not been an easy job organizing a plant like this, but I have always remembered the training and process of organizing that I learned in those early days back in Scotland.

We, in America, in the organized labor movement, have something in common with our brothers and sisters, not only in Britain and the U. S., but with our gallant allies in Soviet Russia, China, France, etc., and the oppressed peoples that are still under the Fascist yoke, in the knowledge that some day the light will go on again. We, in America, feel certain that in a post-war world, the workers of all nations will see to it that the standards of the Teheran Agreement, the Atlantic Charter and the United Nations' Charter are lived up to and are striving for that end.

The workers in this plant have donated enormous sums of money to the Red Cross which you no doubt have seen in your country. They've done a wonderful job to relieve the suffering of those people who are not as fortunate as we are. The workers in this plant have donated over 700 pints of blood to be turned into blood plasma and sent to the battlefields of Europe, Asia and in the Pacific. With that kind of spirit, there is no doubt in my mind or in theirs, what they expect. They expect a full and lasting peace and the smashing of fascism forever.

One more thing I want to tell you is that the American women have done their part in producing for Victory. Some people in Europe might think that the American women are soft, but what I have seen of them shows that they have sacrificed more than at any time in the United States' history. They worked long hours, producing food, ammunition, tanks, aeroplanes, etc., in order to hasten the Victory and lasting peace. You can put it down in your books that the help the United States has given, the credit for it can be shared by the American woman.

It is very gratifying to know that you are so deeply involved in the fight for justice and the education of the worker in Britain. Your National Council of Labor Colleges is a big step forward. We would like to congratulate all the British people on their selection of a Labor Government. We, in America, know you made a wise decision and we agree with you there should be a closer working relationship with all trade union movements.

I would appreciate it very much if you would send some of your educational material, describing your activities, also what effect the new Labor Government has on the British Trade Union movement. I hope that I have expressed my sentiments to you and sentiments of the thousands of workers in this plant.

In terminating this letter to you, I would like very much to send fraternal greetings to the many workers you associate with on behalf of Local 194 FTA-CIO. Best wishes and earnest hope that we achieve a lasting peace and a better world for all.

Sign $4 Billion Anglo-American Loan: Following months of negotiation, Secy. of State James F. Byrnes signs agreement in Washington for a $4 billion loan to Great Britain. U. S. and British officials look on. (Federated Pictures)

British Ag. Workers Demand Wage Rise

London, Egland (ALN)—A list of demands designed to bring farm workers' wages to the level of those paid to industrial workers was made this week to the Agricultural Wages Board by the British National Union of Agricultural Workers.

The list is headed by a demand for a 10-shilling ($2) weekly increase in the minimum wage of farm workers and the establishment of a 48-hour week.

The increase would establish a minimum wage for adult workers of $18. Proportionate increases are being sought for women and young workers. Other demands call for time-and-a-quarter for week-day overtime work, time-and-a-half for Sundays and holidays and two weeks annual paid vacations.

Though farm owners have not yet appeared before the Wages Board, their published comments indicate that they will offer strong resistance to the demands.

World Labor

FRANCE: More than two million French civil service workers pulled a 2-hour strike on Dec. 12 that affected every part of France. Called to protest government refusal to grant the workers a cost-of-living increase, the strike was especially dramatic in the big cities.

In Paris all subways halted for two hours, telephone operators sat motionless, policemen left their posts, teachers dismissed their classes, busses stopped running, the radio was silent and post offices and telegraphic communications were shut down.

In thousands of offices government workers stopped work and mass meetings and demonstrations were called by sympathetic workers throughout the nation.

RUSSIA: The most important question facing Soviet trade unions — how to raise the living standards of its 27 million members—was tackled by the first postwar convention of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions in Moscow.

Chairman Vassily Kuznetsov told the delegates that during reconversion attention should be on rapid and complete return to the normal working day, vacations and rest days and strict observance of labor laws, especially regarding women and youth. Kuznetsov is familiar to thousands of American workers since his recent tour of the U. S.

Main debate at the opening sessions of the convention concerned rebuilding of war-shattered homes and factories. The unions of building trade workers were called upon to get busy and see that their industries ended bottlenecks in building materials. Union representatives sharing in approval of new houses were cautioned not to accept structures of bad quality.

CHINA: The liberation of Shanghai by Chiang Kai-shek's forces brought on a new oppression to the city's unions. In Shanghai, China's greatest city, the 600,000 industrial workers are once more, as before the war, under the rule of Tu Yu-sen, big time gangster and opium czar who suppressed the militant Chinese unions in 1927.

Tu is not only the Chinese government's chief "labor fixer," but is also a powerful gangster as well as head of the Cotton Mill Guild, comprising employers in Shanghai's chief industry. His men staff the municipal labor departments whose job is, according to New York Times correspondent Henry Lieberman, "to screen the leadership of new unions."

A comparable situation in the U. S. would have the chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers appointing the heads of the AFL and CIO and providing the personnel of the Labor Department and War Labor Board.

Don't Buy Lucky Strike Pall Mall

On Strike

Notes from LOCALS

Demand Raise

7-2 Seattle, Wash. — Negotiations between Local 7-2 and the National Fruit Canning Co. and Bergoust-Wilson Co. will start after the first of the year. The Union's demands include an increase in wages, 40-hour week during the season instead of the present 48-hour week, and an improved vacation clause.

At the Local's recent membership meeting, the following new officers were elected: James Moellendorf, Pres. and Bus. Agt.; N. A. Kopf, Vice-Pres.; Florence Palmer, Secy.-Treas.; Ivan Weir, Sgt.-at-Arms; Robert Brauch and John James, Trustees, Ivan Jacobsen and Robert Mabe, Executive Board members-at-large. Helen Axford was elected Shop Steward for women at the Bergoust-Wilson plant.

By Florence Palmer, Reporter

(Continued on last column)

FORWARD MARCH!

Consolidation Is The Key

By HAROLD J. LANE, International Secretary-Treasurer

I BELIEVE that it is time to pay special recognition to a number of our local Unions who have done a splendid job in consolidation. The work that these Locals have done, can serve as an example for some of our other Locals which are still faced with closing the gap between members of the Union and those workers for whom we have bargaining rights.

Local 26 of Suffolk, Va., adopted an intensive plan whereby any Steward or member who signed up 25 new members, received a $25 War Bond. This plan has been in effect for approximately three months, and they have signed up over 700 new members.

The wages of these workers are very low. They fully realize that the only way in which they can obtain substantial wage increases and be in a bargaining position to improve other sections of their contract, is to have a 100% Local. They are well on the road to achieving that goal and their organizing program remains in effect until the Union is able to negotiate a Union Shop contract.

Bear in mind, that in spite of the low wages paid, this Local has a $5 initiation fee; and the splendid progress made here in signing up new workers certainly is a fine example to prove that workers join a Union because of the benefits they obtain through organization, and they are not looking for bargains in initiation fees.

The workers in Local 26 simply got tired of carrying around the "gravy train riders" and they coined a phrase—"Get off our backs and by our side"—so that in their coming negotiations, they can talk money instead of peanuts. (They have a contract with Planters Peanut Co.)

At the last International Executive Board meeting, leaders of Local 194, Chicago, Ill., presented a comprehensive, workable organizing program for their Local which they felt would result in closing the gap.

Effective Program

This program covered an analysis of the divisions which composed Local 194. This analysis showed that the biggest gap in the Local was in the Campbell Soup division. They got to work organizing two effective Shop Stewards councils, one for the night shift and one for the day shift. They broke the plant down into eight main departments for purposes of concentrating on consolidation. They allocated responsibility to the various Shop Stewards so as to ascertain what strength they had in these departments, and then concentrated department by department, attempting to make them 100%.

They fully realized the importance of proper grievance procedure and the settling of grievances promptly and efficiently by the Shop Stewards and officers of the Local. They established an educational program, one in which they utilized the Madison School, which was conducted by the International Union, with delegates attending. These delegates not only attended, but returned to the Local and utilized the knowledge they obtained, in assisting other Shop Stewards in their respective functions.

Stewards' Classes

They sent their Shop Stewards to classes conducted by the Abraham Lincoln School in Chicago. They purchased a movie machine and a projector, in order to show films of an educational nature and improve their Local Union membership meetings.

They tackled the problem of publicity and in a manner which reflects the increased interest on the part of the membership. They used important issues in constructive leaflet distributions, which were successful in rallying the workers in having them join the Union. They also tied this in by having all new members who signed up in the Union, receive the International paper, FTA News, by sending their names and addresses into the National Office. The Local very constructively faced the problems of personnel and finances, and has provided for an additional full-time organizer for the Local Union.

Gate Rallies

One of the important factors in closing the gap in this Local was the gate demonstrations utilizing all the Shop Stewards and leaders in the Local to sign up non-union people. These gate demonstrations were well organized and well conducted, with sound trucks and placards being used very effectively.

I certainly commend Local 194 for taking a program which was on paper at the last Board meeting and putting it into full force and effect, which resulted in an increase of 1,600 dues paying members.

(To be continued in next issue.)

Notes from LOCALS

(Continued from first column)

Backed By WLB

175 Eau Claire, Wis. — Local 175 now has the Directive Order of the National War Labor Board to back up its fight for a 55c minimum wage at the Lange Canning Co. The Order, originally issued by the Regional WLB set the 55c minimum retroactive to February, 1945, and also provided for a more strict seniority procedure.

The Company's appeal to revoke the Order was denied recently by the NWLB.

By Harry Virgil, Regional Director

$100 For Wounded Vets

207 Brooklyn, N. Y. — Local 207 recently collected $100 from the employees of the Hills Bros. Co. for gifts for wounded veterans. The money will go to the local American Legion Post, where Pres. Viola Castagnola is the Auxiliary's Rehabilitation Chairman.

The following are the newly-elected officers of the Local: Viola Castagnola, Pres.; Helen Andricola, Vice-Pres.; Rose De Crescenzo, Treas.; Pauline Camarda, Secy.; Comenic Foti, Sgt.-at-Arms; Ralph DeCrescenzo and M. Della Rose, Guards; Helen Andricola, John Adams and Vincent Peppitto, Trustees.

By Viola Castaynola, Pres.

Welcome Vets

297 Toledo, Ohio — Local 297 welcomes home Bill Snyder, James Tooman and Frank Matenuas, who have recently returned to work at the Woolson Spice plant after serving in the Armed Forces.

The new officers of the Local are: Darrell Fisher, Pres.; Stanley Kaiser, Vice-Pres.; James Tooman, Fin. Secy.; William Snyder, Rec. Secy.; Doris Frederick, Treas.

By Virginia Lee, Reporter

New Officers

495 Carrollville, Wis. — Newly elected officers of Local 495 are: John Kovach, Pres.; George Scheiber, Vice-Pres.; Alex Berg, Rec. Secy.; and Anton Vanderloop, Fin. Secy.

HOW THE TRUMAN STRIKE-BREAKING BILLS WORKS

ALTHOUGH President Truman's message to Congress asking for legislation against strikes was bad, the actual bills carrying out Truman's proposals are even worse. The following is an analysis of these bills—Norton HR 4908 and Ellender S 1661—made by A. J. Isserman, Counsel for the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties: :

"Certifying" Strikes

The Secretary of Labor is given complete power to step into a labor dispute before or during a strike to certify that a stoppage of work "seriously" affecting the "public interest" and interstate commerce has resulted or is threatened. He can do this whenever he pleases, and there is no appeal from his certification. He might also issue his certification before the strike was called or even after it had been running for weeks, and perhaps at the very moment when union victory was in sight.

The "Cooling Off" Period

As soon as he does this, the "cooling off" period commences. At once the employees must "continue or resume work" for 30 days. In this 30-day period, or as long as it may be extended, the employee must work under the conditions which existed when the dispute arose. In other words, if the union protests a 20% wage cut and the Secretary of Labor subsequently issues his certification, the employees would have to work under the wage cut, because the dispute obviously did not arise until after the employer's action.

The Employer

The employer in this 30-day period is under no restraint, except that he may not make further wage cuts, layoffs or other changes in conditions of work. However, he can hire strike-breakers, arrange his production to meet the strike situation and take any steps that may help him break the strike once it is called or resumed.

The Union

The union, on the other hand, is shackled for the 30-day period, even to the point where it becomes unlawful for any person to encourage any work stoppage or to provide funds or benefits to the strikers.

How It Works

The Act could be applied to present strikes or to any strike which may be called in the future in the legitimate exercise by the unions of their fundamental economic strength. If it were exercised in a present strike, the workers would be compelled to go back to work and remain passive for 30 days, while their strike was being smashed under the guise of finding facts. It is obvious that a 30-day interruption in any strike is the most powerful strike-breaking force that can be used.

Moreover, if the workers continue their strike to preserve their unity and strength during the 30-day period, they would be under penalty of the law and would be subject to injunctions by employers, wholesale damage suits for the employer's loss of production, contempt actions, fines and jail sentences.

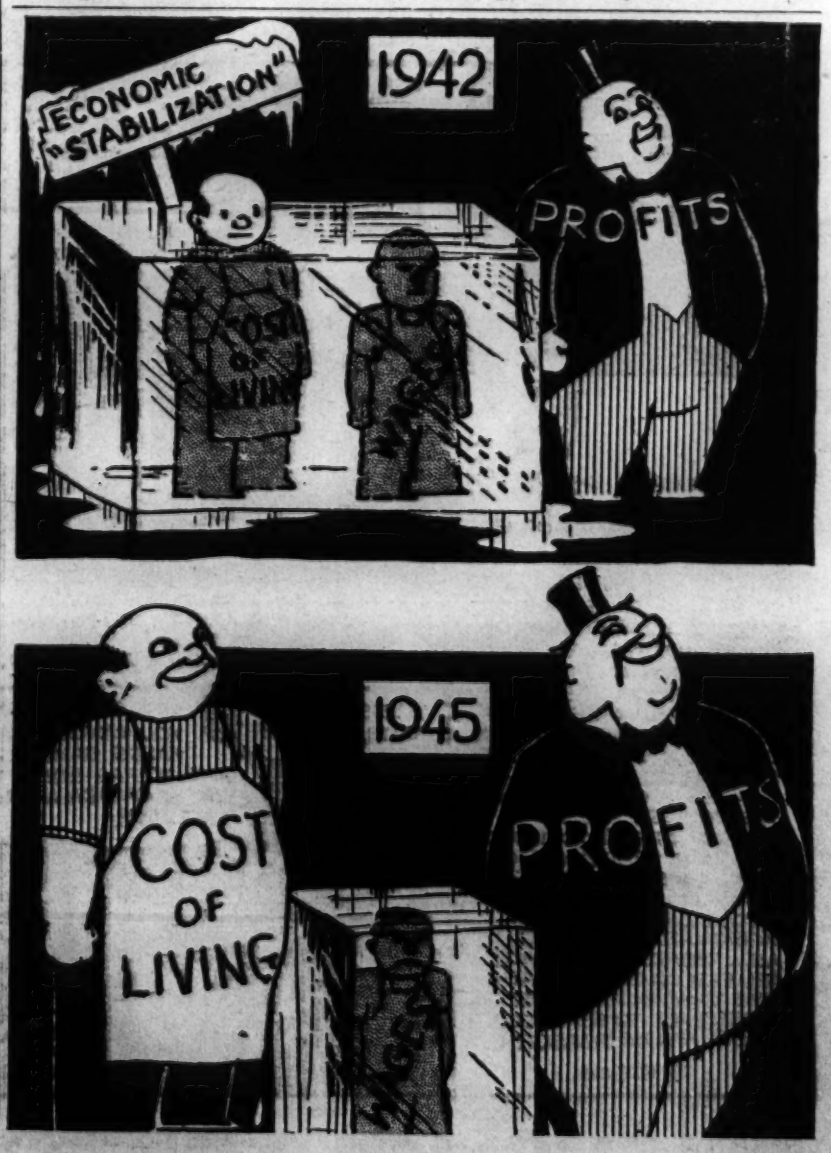
Fact Finding Boards

These Boards, appointed by the President, are supposed to find and report on the facts involved in the dispute in 20 days. There is no provision for labor representation. All that is required is that the Board members have no direct financial interest in the corporation involved. In other words, two or three representatives of industry might well be appointed to sit on such a Board and "find" the facts and make recommendations.

Endangers Wagner Act

The Secretary of Labor is given the power to designate the employee representative who shall appear before the fact finding Board, and such designation is binding. Thus, the workers' right to choose and bargain through their own representatives is endangered.

The Secretary of Labor may, if he desires, request the NLRB to certify the employee representative and the Board must do so. In other words, he can force an election while a dispute is pending though it be in violation of the present practice of the NLRB under the Wagner Act. This power may be used as another strike-breaking tactic.



UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

FTA Policy Protects GI's Right To His Job

WORRIED about a job when you get back, while you're sweating out that discharge, GI Joe? Here's how FTA is fighting to protect your right to that job:

Back in December, 1944, at the Union's Fifth National Convention, a resolution was adopted calling on all FTA local unions to make every effort to negotiate contract provisions protecting the job of veterans. Since that time, the locals have gone about putting that resolution into action.

Instead of allowing the legal 90 days for a vet to return to his job, FTA policy calls for contract clauses allowing nine months in which a vet can reapply for his old job after discharge. This is already in effect in many FTA contracts. In some contracts, like Local 78's contracts with most of the fruit and vegetable packing sheds in California and Arizona, a vet can reapply for his job in six months.

FTA policy also calls for accumulated seniority for a vet returning to his job. Some 81 plants under contract to the Union are covered by this clause, and the number grows larger with each new contract signed. A vet returning to one of these plants enters with seniority equal to the time he spent in the Armed Forces, plus his seniority status when he left the plant.

In addition, any benefits such as group insurance, where they exist, will be kept up for the vet while he is in the Service.

Union Demands

Here's how a model FTA contract clause on Servicemen reads:

"Any employee who is required under the Selective Service Act for service in the Armed Forces, or who enlists in the Armed Forces, or auxiliary services, or who joins the Merchant Marine and who makes application for re-employment within nine months after completion of such service shall be restored to his former position or to a position of like seniority and pay (plus increases since the time he left for the Armed Services), provided he is still qualified to perform the duties of such position. If for any reason he is no longer qualified, then the employer shall find the employee a place suitable to his abilities.

"Employees referred to in the above paragraph shall accumulate plant seniority during their absence, and the company make payments to keep their group insurance policy in full force and effect."

Many FTA contracts go beyond the provisions suggested by the model contract. For instance, Local 52's contract with the Libby, McNeill and Libby Co. in Morrison, Ill., calls for two weeks' severance pay for employees going into the Armed Forces for every six months they worked in the plant, plus vacation pay. Local 297's contract with the Woolson Spice Co. in Toledo, Ohio, guarantees a subsidy for employees in the Armed Forces. These men have been getting the difference between their Army pay and their wages at the time they left the plant, while they are in the Armed Forces.

Special Provisions

At the La Choy Company in Detroit, Mich., Local 58 has seen to it that insurance payments are kept up by the plant for employees in the Armed Forces.

Local 64 has won a clause in its contract with the Van Camp Sea Food Co. awarding newly-hired vets seniority equal to length of time in Service. Other contracts make special provisions for disabled vets, such as preferential hiring, etc.

Not all the model provisions are in effect in all FTA contracts, but they are Union policy and the Union is fighting for their inclusion. They give special advantage to servicemen, within the Union system of seniority.

How much further we can go along this line, and towards winning job security for the workers of the nation, depends a lot on you, Joe—on your stepping back into your job and becoming active once more in your Union.

GI Letters Reply To Anti-Labor Lies

Rome, Italy — U. S. newspaper anti-union propaganda has been taking a beating from many GI's here in the Mediterranean Theatre, judging by the letters appearing recently in the Mail Call column of **Stars and Stripes.**

"I'm not a union member but I'm ashamed of it after seeing what the fascists have done to Europe, after first destroying organized labor," writes Cpl. Myron J. Loe. "I am convinced that labor unions are essential to democracy."

Sgt. John L. Laverty drove his point home when he wrote: "Maybe you realize that there are many veterans participating in strikes which are their last legal means to force employers to keep their wartime promises. Not all of the soldiers were bankers or stockholders before the war, so why direct opinion against the people who are fighting for our interests back home?"

IS THIS WHAT HE FOUGHT FOR?

Courtesy Appreciate America, Inc.

FORT KNOX REGIONAL HOSPITAL
October 22, 1945

TO: The American Legion, the Legion National Labor Relations Committee, the National Conference of Union Labor Legionnaires.

We, the undersigned hospitalized soldiers, combat and otherwise, of Fort Knox Regional Hospital, Kentucky, request our country's leading veterans organization, the American Legion, to endorse publicly the present demands for sizeable wage increases by the working people and their trade unions.

High prices and low war-time wages make wage increases essential to America's economy. Huge war profits can afford it. . . .

(81) SPEC

GIs Back Unions' Demands for Higher Wages: The above petition, signed by 33 soldiers hospitalized at Fort Knox—many of them wounded in combat—was endorsed by the executive committee of the Natl. Conference of Union Labor Legionnaires, but the recent American Legion convention at Chicago failed to act on it. Meyer Bernstein, assistant to Chairman Clinton S. Golden of the CIO Veterans Committee, presented the petition to the Legion's labor relations committee, which merely accepted it.

THE Story of Labor
LABOR WAS ALWAYS OPPOSED TO SLAVERY. THE WORKERS SAW THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HUMAN SLAVERY AND "WAGE" SLAVERY. AS LONG AS NEGROES WERE ENSLAVED, "FREE" WHITE WORKERS, FORCED TO COMPETE WITH THEM, GOT STARVATION WAGES. SO THEY DIDN'T FALL FOR THE LINE OF THE SLAVE-OWNERS: TO LOOK UPON THE NEGRO, OR ANYONE ELSE... AS AN INFERIOR.
WHEN THE CIVIL WAR CAME, THE WORKERS FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM. THEY FOUGHT IN "BLEEDING" KANSAS; AT THE POLLS TO ELECT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, ON EVERY BLOODY BATTLEFIELD. THEY DETERMINED NOT TO STOP UNTIL ALL... REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION OR COLOR... WERE FREE TO WORK FOR WHOM THEY WANTED, AND TO GET DECENT WAGES FOR THEIR LABOR....
157 SPEC
JOE WORKER
FOR DE LAWD'S SAKE, HELP ME GIT T' CANADA AN' FREEDOM!
IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO HELP A RUNAWAY SLAVE. BESIDES, WHY SHOULD WE? NEGROES ARE AN INFERIOR RACE!
DON'T SAY THAT, PLEASE! 'TAINT MY FAULT THEY DRAGGED MY GRANDPAPPY HERE T' BE A SLAVE
I DUNNO' IF YOU BLACKS GET FREE, YOU'LL TAKE OUR JOBS AWAY!
I TOLD HIM THAT!
THAT'S WHAT YOUR EMPLOYER WANTS YOU TO THINK. YOU'RE COMPETING NOW! CAN A FREE WORKER GET $2. A DAY WHEN SLAVE LABOR COSTS HIS MASTER ONLY 10 CENTS!
JOE WORKER'S ARGUMENTS CONVINCED HIS FELLOWS. THEY HELPED RUNAWAYS ESCAPE BY THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD....
BLESS YOU BOTH, MASSAS!
DON'T CALL US MASTERS! YOU WORK WITH YOUR HANDS SAME AS US, AND YOU'RE EQUAL WITH US. OFF TO CANADA NOW.... AND FREEDOM!
SLAVERY BECAME THE ISSUE IN 1860. ABE LINCOLN RAN FOR PRESIDENT...
A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CAN NOT STAND! WE CANNOT ENDURE... HALF SLAVE, HALF-FREE!
THAT'S THE STUFF, ABE! I'M VOTING FOR YOU!
WHEE! LEE'S SURRENDERED! NOW THE WAR'S OVER!
IT'S ONLY BEGUN! WE MUST FIGHT ON UNTIL NO MAN IS DENIED HIS RIGHTS BECAUSE HE'S BLACK OR WHITE, JEW OR CHRISTIAN, NATIVE OR FOREIGN-BORN!
Jack Alderman